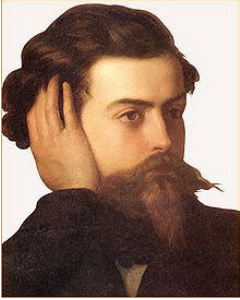


TO UNDERSTAND ITALY BY ITS NATIONAL HYMN

Here you can find the complete text of the original poem written by Goffredo Mameli.



Goffredo Mameli was just 19 years old when he wrote the poem, calling it "Canto degli Italiani" (Song of Italians). Goffredo was what we could call "a rebel" of his time. After writing the poem, he tried to adapt it to some already existing music, but as he didn't like the results, he sent the poem to a friend, Michele Novaro, who was a musician.



Michele liked the poem very much and composed the National Hymn, with Goffredo's words. Michele became very famous, however he did not earn any money out of his work. He died at the age of 66, very poor. At the same time, Goffredo never stopped fighting, in several parts of Italy, and died in Rome in 1849, at just 22 years old. Rome at the time was living through the brief experience of being a Roman Republic, that had been established by Roman people, who were rebelling against the Pope, and his rule.

Goffredo's and Michele's hymn is rather long; however it is usually performed in a short version. Performers usually sing only the first stanza, which is sung twice, and then the chorus ends with a loud "Si!" ("Yes!")*. The third stanza, which is rarely sung, is an invocation to God to protect the loving union of the Italians struggling



to form their unified nation once and for all, whereas the fourth recalls popular heroic figures and moments of Italian independence such as the Vespri siciliani, the riots that had started in Genoa by Balilla, and the battle of Legnano. The last stanza of the poem refers

to the part played by Habsburg Austria and Czarist Russia in the partitions of Poland, linking its quest for independence to the Italian one.

(please note the parts marked in blue)

Italian lyrics

Fratelli d'Italia,
l'Italia s'è desta,
dell'elmo di Scipio
s'è cinta la testa.
Dov'è la Vittoria?
Le porga la chioma,
ché schiava di Roma
Iddio la creò.

CORO:

Stringiamci a coorte,
siam pronti alla morte.
Siam pronti alla morte,
l'Italia chiamò.
Stringiamci a coorte,
siam pronti alla morte.
Siam pronti alla morte,
l'Italia chiamò, sì!

Noi fummo da secoli
calpesti, derisi,
perché non siam popolo,
perché siam divisi.

Raccolgaci un'unica
bandiera, una speme:
di fonderci insieme
già l'ora suonò.

CORO

Uniamoci, amiamoci,
l'unione e l'amore
rivelano ai popoli
le vie del Signore.
Giuriamo far libero
il suolo natio:
uniti, per Dio,
chi vincer ci può?

CORO

Dall'Alpi a Sicilia
Dovunque è Legnano,
Ogn'uom di Ferruccio
Ha il core, ha la mano,
I bimbi d'Italia
Si chiaman Balilla,
Il suon d'ogni squilla
I Vespri suonò.

CORO

Son giunchi che piegano

English translation

Brothers of Italy,
Italy has woken,
Bound Scipio's helmet
Upon her head.
Where is Victory?
Let her bow down,
For God created her
Slave of Rome.

CHORUS:

Let us join in a cohort,
We are ready to die.
We are ready to die,
Italy has called.
Let us join in a cohort,
We are ready to die.
We are ready to die,
Italy has called, yes!

We were for centuries
downtrodden, derided,
because we are not one people,
because we are divided.

Let one flag, one hope
gather us all.
The hour has struck
for us to unite.

CHORUS

Let us unite, let us love one another,
For union and love
Reveal to the people
The ways of the Lord.
Let us swear to set free
The land of our birth:
United, for God,
Who can overcome us?

CHORUS

From the Alps to Sicily,
Legnano is everywhere;
Every man has the heart
and hand of Ferruccio
The children of Italy
Are all called Balilla;
Every trumpet blast
sounds the Vespers.

CHORUS

Mercenary swords,

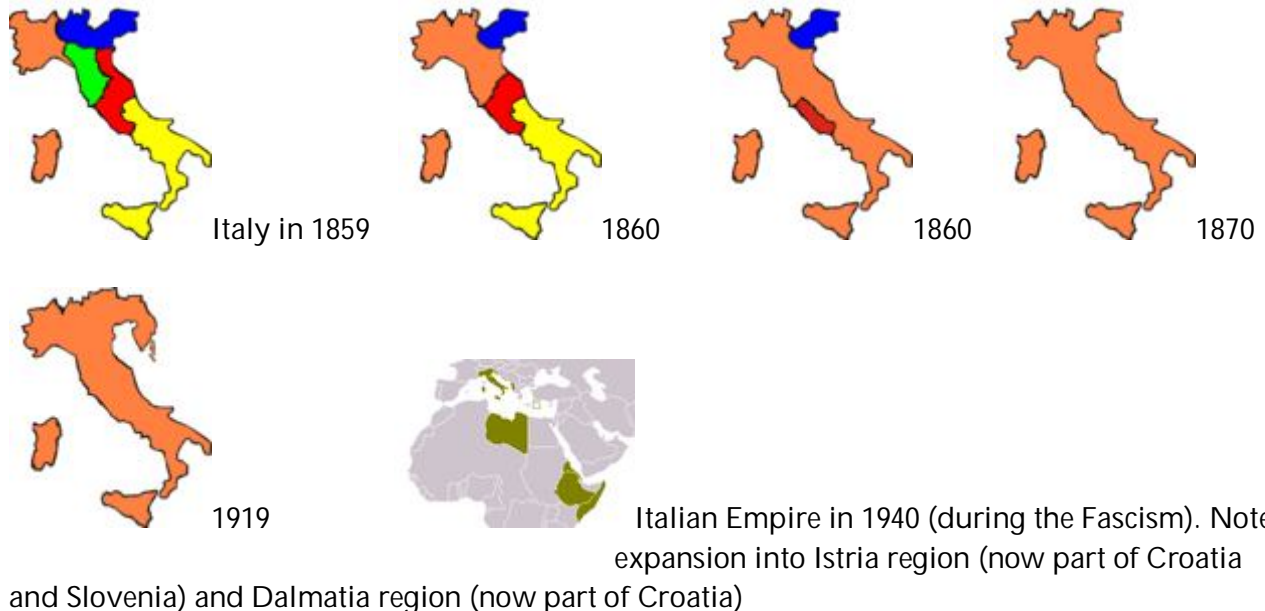
Le spade vendute:
 Già l'Aquila d'Austria
 Le penne ha perdute.
 Il sangue d'Italia,
 Il sangue Polacco,
 Bevé, col cosacco,
 Ma il cor le bruciò.
CORO

they're feeble reeds.
 The Austrian eagle
 Has already lost its plumes.
 The blood of Italy
 and the Polish blood
 It drank, along with the Cossack,
 But it burned its heart.
CHORUS

Further information on the Italian Hymn → http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Il_Canto_degli_Italiani

Audio of the Hymn: <http://youtu.be/z3RToBymttA> (*as usually performed)

Further information on RISORGIMENTO / ENLIGHTENMENT:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_unification





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